

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRASIL 05657 102017Z

20

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 ERDA-07 OES-05

NASA-02 DRC-01 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /141 W
----- 002509

R 101319Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0263

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

UNCLAS BRASILIA 5657

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, BR, US, FR, GW

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE ON BRASIL'S NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES

REF: BRASILIA 5545

1. SUMMARY: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST WEEK'S PRESS COVERAGE ON
BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES: A) IN A POSSIBLE TRIP TO BRAZIL
THIS FALL, VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER MIGHT DISCUSS AS AGREE-
MENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE GERMAN PROGRAM; B) ON JULY 4, BRAZIL
SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE FOR A FAST BREEDER EXPERIMENTAL
REACTOR; C) NUCLEBRAS PRESIDENT NOGUEIRA BATISTA ADMITTED THAT
PART OF THE ALLURE OF THE GERMAN AGREEMENT WAS THE OPPORTUNITY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRASIL 05657 102017Z

TO BECOME PART OWNER OF, AND TO GAIN FULL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT, AN

ENRICHMENT PROCESS; D) LOOKING TOWARD ENERGY NEEDS IN THE 1990'S, BRAZIL MIGHT PURCHASE A HIGH-TEMPERATURE GAS-COOLED EXPERIMENTAL REACTOR (HTGR) FROM THE US; E) THE IAEA WILL STUDY A UK PROPOSAL TO PREVENT THE SALE OF PNE DEVICES TO NON-NUCLEAR POWERS; AND F) THE RUSSIAN NEWSPAPER PRAVDA SAID THAT THE US WOULD HAVE SIGNES AN AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL IF GERMANY HAS NOT. END SUMMARY.

2. ROCKEFELLER TRIP. THE JORNAL DE BRASILIA (JULY 3), IN A STORY ABOUT THE POSSIBLITY OF AN OCTOBER TRIP TO BRAZIL BY VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER, SAID THAT: "SPECIALISTS BELIEVE THAT THE ROCKEFELLER VISIT WOULD EXAMINE (THE POSSIBLITY OF) BILATERIAL UNDERSTANDINGS FOR US PARTICIPATION IN SUPPLEMENTING THE BRAZIL/FRG NUCLEAR AGREEMENT..."

3. PURCHASE OF FRENCH FAST BREEDER. THE JULY 5 EDITION OF JORNAL DO BRASIL REPORTED THAT NUCLEBRAS PRESIDENT PAULO NOGUEIRA BATISTA AND MR. REMY CARLE, PRESIDENT OF GRANCE'S TECHNICATOME, SIGNED A CONTRACT ON JULY 4 WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EXPERIMENTAL FAST BREEDER REACTOR IN BRAZIL. THE BRAZILIAN MODEL, CALLED THE "COBRA", WILL BE PATTERNED AFTER THE FRENCH REACTOR "MINERVE", WHICH IS CURRENTLY UNDER OPERATION IN THE FONTENAT-AUX-ROSES CENTER FOR NUCLEAR STUDIES IN FRANCE. POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE ARTICLE INCLUDE:
NOGUEIRA BATISTA SAID THE COBRA PROJECT WILL PERMIT BRAZILIAN RESEARCH ON THE NEW GENERATION OF FAST BREEDERS, AND IS WILL ENABLE BRAZIL TO DEVELOP ITS OWN EXPERIMENTS AND ACHIEVE ITS OWN DISCOVERIES.
CONSTRUCTION OF THE COBRA IS SET TO BEGIN BY YEAR-END AND IT WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN TWO YEARS; TOTAL COST OF THE CONTRACT WILL BE \$2.5 MILLION(*).
THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN BRASILIA ANNOUNCED THAT THE COBRA REACTOR WILL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR RESEARCH. THE EMBASSY DISCLOSED THAT FRANCE AND BRAZIL WILL SHORTLY SIGN AN AGREEMENT AS IMPORTANT AS THE FRG AGREEMENT WITH REGARD TO THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERTS AND OF FRENCH NUCLEAR KNOW-HOW.
KNOW-HOW INVOLVED IN THE COBRA REACTOR WILL BE SUBJECT TO IAEA SAFEGUARDS. (FURTHER DETAILS ON THE COBRA PROGRAM FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.)

4. ACCORDING TO THE SAME STORY, NOGUEIRA BATISTA SAID THAT:
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRASIL 05657 102017Z

THE CONTRACT REPRESENTS THE BEGINNING OF FRENCH-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION. SINCE SOME PARTS OF FRANCE'S NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY ARE WELL ADVANCED, COOPERATION WITH THAT COUNTRY MAY INCREASE. BRAZIL IS LOOKING FOR THE BEST TECHNOLOGY WHEREVER IT IS BEING DEVELOPED.
NUCLEBRAS WILL BE ASSIGNED AN ENORMOUS TASK IN MINING OF NUCLEAR ORE. THE FRG AGREEMENT WILL PARTIALLY COVER THESE OPERATIONS, BUT IMMENSE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION WILL REMAIN.

AMONG OTHER REQUIREMENTS, BRAZIL WILL NEED LARGE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. FRANCE WILL BE ABLE TO HELP IN MININ, PRODUCTION OF YELLOW CAKE, ETC, BUT NOTHING HAS YET BEEN SET UP IN THIS REGARD. DURING THE NEXT STAGE OF FRENCH-BRAZILIAN NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, THOSE ITEMS WILL BE AGREED UPON. BRAZIL SUBMITTED PROPOSALS TO FRANCE AND THE US OF THE SAME MAGNITUDE AS THAT SUBMITTED TO THE FRG, AND AT THE SAME TIME. THE REASONS FOR AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FRG CONSIST, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE ENRICHMENT PLANT, IN THE EXISTENCE OF AN ENORMOUS ADVANTAGE BY WHICH BRAZIL COULD BECOME AN OWNER OF THE PROCESS. IF THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH A COUNTRY WHERE THE PROCESS HAD ALREADY BEEN PUT INTO OPERATION, WE WOULD NOT HAVE ACCESS TO ALL THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT IT. IT IS CERTAIN THAT BRAZIL WILL NOT HAVE ALL THE KEYS TO THE COBRA PROJECT. WE WILL BE AWARE OF THE PLANS AND OPERATION BUT, PROBABLY, WE WILL NOT BE AWARE OF THE REACTOR'S MANUFACTURING IN DETAIL.

5. POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF US HTGR. THE JULY 6 ISSUE OF BRASILIA'S CORREIO BRASILIENSE REPORTED THAT BRAZIL AND THE US MIGHT ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT, SIMILAR TO THE BRAZILIAN/FRENCH AGREEMENT, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN HTGR IN BRAZIL (REF. PARA 2). ACCORDING TO THE STORY:

ALL INDICATIONS POINTS TO HIGH TEMPERATURE TECHNOLOGY AS THE CHOICE TO MEET BRAZIL'S ENERGY NEEDS IN THE 1990'S. INSTALLATION OF AN HTGR WOULD TAKE A LONG TIME BECAUSE MOST OF BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR TALENT WILL BE TIED UP WITH THE GERMAN AND FRENCH PROGRAM. NONTHELESS, ENTERING INTO A US AGREEMENT NOW WOULD SERVE TO DEFUSE US DISPLEASURE ABOUT THE GERMAN AND FRENCH AGREEMENTS.

6. UK PROPOSAL IN IAEA. THE JULY 8 EDITION OF THE JORNAL DO BRASIL REPORTED THAT THE IAEA HAS DECIDED TO STUDY A NEW UK UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BRASIL 05657 102017Z

PLAN TO PREVENT NUCLEAR ARMS PROLIFERATION THROUGH THE SALE OF NUCLEAR DEVICES (E.G., PNE TO DIVERT A RIVER OR CHANGE THE LOCATION OF A MOUNTAIN) TO COUNTRIES WHICH DESIRE THEM FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. ACCORDING TO THE STORY, IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL SIGVARD EKLUND TOLD UK FONOFF UNDERSECRETARY DAVID ENNALS THAT THE IAEA IS FORMING AN INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE UK PLAN, WHICH IS BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT "PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS" DON'T EXIST.

7. USSR COMMENTS. ACCORDING TO THE JULY 7 EDITION OF JORNAL DO BRASIL, THE MOSCOW NEWSPAPER PRAVDA SAID ON JULY 6 THAT IF GERMANY HAD NOT CONCLUDED THE AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL THEN THE US WOULD HAVE, BECAUSE WESTINGHOUSE AND GENERAL ELECTRIC WERE NEGOTIATING WITH BRAZIL FOR THE SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS. MAJOR BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPERS REPORTED ON JULY 3 THAT THE SOVIET NEWS-

PAPER IZVESTIA COMMENTED THAT:

SELLING A MODERN NUCLEAR SYSTEM TO A NON-NUCLEAR POWER WITHOUT A COMMITMENT TO EXCLUSIVELY PEACEFUL USES IS A DOUBTFUL OR EVEN DANGEROUS ACT.

ALTHOUGH BRAZIL DOES NOT NOW HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY TO PERMIT IT TO USE REACTORS FOR NON-PEACEFUL PURPOSES, CONCERN MOUNTS ABOUT HOW BRAZIL WILL USE ITS NEW NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, ESPECIALLY SINCE BRAZIL DID NOT SIGN THE NPT AND SINCE SOME SEGMENTS IN THAT COUNTRY PROFOUNDLY DESIRE A NUCLEAR WEAPON- CALLED A WEAPON OF INTIMIDATION BY O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO. INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE AND INFLUENCE ARE ACQUIRED BY PARTICIPATION IN THE DETENTE PROCESS AND BY PEACEFUL COOPERATION, NOT BY A RETURN TO THE DISCREDITED POWER POLICY.

8. GERMAN LETTER. THE JULY 8 EDITION OF JORNAL DO BRASIL CARRIED THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE GERMAN CHARGE UN WASHINGTON, NIELS HANSEN, WHICH APPEARED IN THE JULY 7 NEW YORK TIMES. CRIMMINS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, REPORTS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRASIL05657
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750239-0500
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750766/aaaacgvf.tel
Line Count: 187
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BRASILIA 5545
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JAN 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS COVERAGE ON BRASIL'S NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, BR, US, FR, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006